

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7675

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TC, GB

SUBJ: UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE) DELEGATION VISITS GABON

1. APRIL 23-24 JOINT GABON-UAE COMMISSION MET IN LIBREVILLE FOR FIRST WORKING SESSION SINCE ITS CREATION IN JANUARY 1974. UAE DELEGATION HEADED BY FONMIN SAIF GOBASH FLEW DIRECTLY TO LIBREVILLE IN COMPANY OF GABONESE COLLEAGUES FOLLOWING CLOSE OF AFRO-ARAB FONMIN CONFERENCE IN DAKAR.

2. AT CLOSE OF LIBREVILLE MEETINGS, MIXED COMMISSION ISSUED JOING COMMUNIQUE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

A) REAFFIRMED SUPPORT OF RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN MID-EAST AND SOUTH AFRICA IN THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM, COLONIALISM AND NEO-COLONIALISM;

B) CONFIRMED THEIR ATTACHMENT TO U.N. RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR TOTAL WIDHDRAWAL BY ISREAEL OF OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES AND DEMANDING RECOGNITION FOR NATIONAL RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE INCLUDING CREATION OF PALESTINIAN STATE ON "NATIVE"

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TERRITORY;

C) CONDEMNED APARTHEID PRACTICED BY "RACIST REGIME" IN RHODESIA, SOUTH AFRICA AND ISRAEL; AND
D) RENEWED UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT OF ALL OPPRESSED PEOPLE.

3. COMMISSION ALSO ADOPTED PRELIMINARY AGREEMENTS FOR ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL AND CULTURAL COOPERATION. IN ADDITION, UAE DELEGATION TOOK OFFICIAL NOTE OF GABONESE REQUEST FOR FINANCING OF SERIES OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

4. COMMUNIQUE AND PRELIMINARY AGREEMENTS WERE INITIALED BY GOBASH FOR UAE AND FONMIN OKUMBA FOR GOG. MEDIA REPORTED THAT UAE DELEGATION OF EXPERTS WAS EXPECTED IN LIBREVILLE WITHIN TWO WEEKS TO CARRY OUT DETAILED STUDY OF INVESTMENT PROJECTS PROPOSED BY GABONESE.

5. COMMENT; THIS IS FIRST TIME TO EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE THAT GOG HAS CONDEMNED ISRAEL AS RACIST REGIME PRACTICING APARTHEID AND IS CONTRARY TO GOG POSITION IN LAST UNGA WHEN GABONESE DELEGATION ABSTAINED ON VOTE TO EQUATE ZIONISM WITH RACISM. SHIFT IN GOG POSITION TOWARDS ISRAEL MAY SIMPLY BE ACCOMMODATION OF UAE IN EFFORT TO OBTAIN BADLY NEEDED FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, HOWEVER, MAY ALSO REFLECT HARDENING IN ATTITUDE OF GABONESE TOWARDS ISRAEL FOLLOWING VOSTER VISIT.DEJARNETTE

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